THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON — WALTER A. NETSCH
JOHN S. CHASE — ALAN R. NOVAK
SONDRA G. MYERS — EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

May 10, 1983

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10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: June 14, 1983
July 12, 1983
Sept. 13, 1983

B. Approval of April 19, 1983 minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts.

C. Joint Committee on Landmarks; status report.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Office of the Mayor and several Federal agencies; coordinated and presented by the Federal City Council: U. S. International Cultural and Trade Center Project

CFA 10/MAY/83-1, Preliminary Center designs in Southwest urban renewal area between freeway and the waterfront, informational presentation.

B. Department of the Navy, Chesapeake Division

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-2, Temporary Lodging Facility, designs, Bolling Air Force Base. Confirmation of CFA 8/MAR/83-5 report.

2. CFA 10/MAY/83-5, Modifications to Firth Sterling Gate, Bolling/Anacostia Tract.

C. Smithsonian Institution

CFA 10/MAY/83-3, Lighting mock-up at the Freer Gallery, report.

D. General Services Administration, National Capital Region

CFA 10/MAY/83-4, Old Post Office renovation details, final design for the "Pavilion".

E. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-6, Intersection design, Constitution Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue at John Marshall Park (previous CFA 7/JUL/81-3).

2. CFA 10/MAY/83-7, Western Plaza Flagpole Bases, additional design studies, (previous CFA 14/DEC/82-1).

F. District of Columbia Government, Department of Transportation

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-8, Barney Circle Freeway Modification, preliminary alternative studies.

2. CFA 10/MAY/83-9, Union Station, preliminary development concepts, (previous CFA 13/JUL/82-1).

G. District of Columbia Government, Department of Transportation, Public Space Committee and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company

CFA 10/MAY/83-10, Location of payphones in place of existing unused police callboxes throughout the city. Review of concept and prototype design for replacement boxes.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS CONTINUED, May 10, 1983

H. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 83-77, 2715 M Street, N.W., renovation of old Corcoran School and new construction. Modified concept designs.

b. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 83-54, 655 15th Street, N.W., Metropolitan Square, Phase II, review of working drawings for conformance with preliminary scheme, (previous S.L. 78-32, 33, 34, S.L. 79-117, and S.L. 80-8).

b. Appendix II.

I. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

CFA 10/MAY/83-11, Joe Louis medal, designs.

12:00 SITE VISIT

Dedication of John Marshall Park

1:00 Inspection of proposed acquisitions, Freer Gallery.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 83-58	3129 N Street, N.W. Herbert Miller	Renovation

ACTION: Issue permit for renovation at rear and side of residence; brick to match existing house.

O.G. 83-59	1241-1247 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Canterbury Tales Ltd. Partnership	Shopfront remodeling

ACTION: No objection to concept of altering the first floor provided the balcony between the first and second stories is retained at 1241 and the individuality of both buildings is manintained. Because the applicant informed the Commission that the proposed rear addition does not conform to zoning, there is no comment on that part of the project.

O.G. 83-60	1602 Caton Place, N.W. Mr. H. Barton Farr	Swimming pool

ACTION: No objection. Swimming pool is not visible from public space.

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* O.G. 83-62	3327 M Street, N.W. Alvin Himmelfarb	Three story building

ACTION: Issue permit for new building. Sample panel of bricks and mortar shall be erected on the site for approval by the Commission of Fine Arts prior to construction of exterior walls.

O.G. 83-63	1001 30th Street, N.W. Crow Washington #1	Crow Washington sales office

ACTION: Issue permit.

O.G. 83-65	3115 M Street, N.W. Marvin Fabrikant	Facade revision with basement entrance on street

ACTION: Concepts of opening up an areaway from the street to the basement commercial level through an exposed stair from the sidewalk and pulling the original glass line of the building back away from the street are not recommended. To avoid an adverse impact to the historic district, additional study is requested with an interior stair to basement space and retaining facade elements in existing plane. The Board and the staff will be happy to assist the applicant in attaining a satisfactory preservation solution for this important "art deco" building.

O.G. 83-66	3116 P Street, N.W. Trowbridge Vom Baur	Driveway

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Taking garden space for parking and creating another curb cut on this block is not encouraged. Request further study of alternative designs screening the parked car from view of the sidewalk.

O.G. 83-67	2801-3 M Street, N.W. Mrs. G. Howland Chase	Doors for garage

ACTION: Issue permit for new garage doors. Top panels shall have curvature of existing brick arches; bottom skirts shall take up difference in slope of street.

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*	O.G. 83-67	1025 Thomas Jefferson St., N.W. Crow Washington #1 Ben Paden	New building

ACTION: No objection to concept of adding a small elevator penthouse below the allowable building height, provided working drawings are submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for approval. Restoration of the chimneys to the final design drawings is strongly recommended.

O.G. 83-69	1258 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Marvin Fabrikant	Alteration to storefronts

ACTION: Issue permit for storefront alterations.

O.G. 83-70	3270 P Street, N.W. Mr. & Mrs. Peter Freed	Garage construction

ACTION: Additional information requested. No objection to replacing existing garage, but Commission is unable to approve the design on basis of insufficient information and inadequate drawings.

O.G. 83-71	2800 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Georgetown Plaza Association	Installation of light poles

ACTION: Additional information requested. No objection to some lighting modification in hotel vicinity, but use of quad globe fixtures appears to be out of scale with adjoining buildings and entrance court. Recommend alternate lighting technique study. Applicant is urged to attend the next Board meeting on May 24, to discuss this project.

O.G. 83-73	3131 P Street, N.W. Nick Zumas	Alterations and repairs to residence

ACTION: Issue permit for rear addition on existing deck. All work on west side, as visible from public space, shall match existing building.

O.G. 83-75	3200 Scott Place, N.W. Mrs. Eliska Coolidge	Relocate existing air conditioning condensing unit

ACTION: Request additional information and additional study. Though there is no objection to locating air conditioning equipment on roof, drawings are not specific as to location in relation to street and visibility, height and color of unit. Unit should be screened, or located in the center of roof so as to conceal it.

O.G. 83-76	3147 P Street, N.W. Diana S. Knop	Addition and renovation to residence

ACTION: Concept of addition to house is approved with one reservation: suggest that the cornice of the addition be lowered somewhat to separate it from the cornice trim of the main house.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
* S.L. 83-48	730 15th Street, N.W. American Security Bank	American Security terraces

ACTION: Concept for terrace enclosure is approved subject to approval by the Commission of Fine Arts.

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* S.L. 83-50	2138, 2140 F Street, N.W. Marc Reshefsky/Jonathan Rutenberg	New Medical Condo

ACTION: Design concept of new office building is approved subject to approval by Commission of Fine Arts of working drawings and material samples. Though the subject of demolition of the existing structures on the site has not been referred to the Commission of Fine Arts, the Commission determined that their possible significance should be called to the attention of the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office.

S.L. 83-51	230 2nd Street, S.E. William J. & N. L. Hughes	Rear enclosure

ACTION: Issue permit. No objection on basis of limited visibility from public space. Suggest that the impact to adjacent residence and proximity to partyline be examined prior to permit issuance.

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* S.L. 83-52	520 North Capitol Street Perkins & Will	Phoenix/Commodore Hotel

ACTION: Concept is approved as shown in design development drawings which conform to previously approved scheme. Working drawings and material samples shall be submitted for approval by Commission of Fine Arts prior to permit issuance.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 83-53	2029 Waterside Drive, N.W. John & Linda Kiser	Addition and repair to residence

ACTION: Issue permit.

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*	S.L. 83-57	729 15th Street, N.W. NS&T Bank	NS&T Bank

ACTION: Issue permit for new construction and renovation. Working drawings conform to designs given conceptual approval. Sample brick and mortar panel shall be erected on site for approval by Commission of Fine Arts prior to erection of exterior walls.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

May 10, 1983

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members present:	Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman Hon. John S. Chase Hon. Sondra G. Myers Hon. Walter A. Netsch Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Staff present:	Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson Mrs. Sue Kohler
National Capital Planning Commission staff present:	Mr. George Evans

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings, approved as: 14 June 1983
12 July 1983
13 September 1983

The Secretary noted that the June meeting may be cancelled for lack of submissions.

B. Minutes of 19 April 1983 meeting, approved.

C. Joint Committee on Landmarks; status report. The Secretary noted a copy of a letter in each member's folder written to the chairman of NCPC, discussing the future of the Committee; he said he would like to make the letter a part of these minutes. This was agreed to and is attached as Exhibit A.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Office of the Mayor and several federal agencies; coordinated and presented by the Federal City Council: U. S. International Cultural and Trade Center project.

CFA 10/MAY/83-1, Preliminary Center designs, in southwest urban renewal area between freeway and waterfront, informational presentation. In introducing this project, the Secretary noted that the Federal City Council had been asked to serve as administrator and coordinator of a policy committee, set up to plan development of the project, and consisting of federal and District of Columbia officials as well as civic groups. He then introduced Kenneth Sparks, executive vice president of the Council, to give the members some background information. Mr. Sparks said that in February 1982, the Council's waterfront task force had made two recommendations regarding the southwest waterfront: (1) that the 36 hole golf course at Hains Point be reduced to 18, so that a 50 acre tract along the Washington Channel could be opened up for other recreational uses (this has since been accomplished); and (2) that some use be found for the land along the north side of Maine Avenue, in the vicinity of the Tenth Street Overlook. Mr. Sparks said this land consisted of three sites: the overlook, which has never been successful in attracting people; Parcel 76, to the east, at one time proposed as a site for low income housing; and south of that, a recreational field belonging to Jefferson Junior High School. He said suggestions had been made that the Smithsonian might use the area, or it might become the site for a previously proposed international trade center. It became apparent that there was considerable interest in the latter suggestion among federal and District agencies and civic groups, and with a $75,000 grant from the Commerce Department, planning began in the summer of 1982. A concept paper was put together, suggesting that there be an international trade center, a permanent international exhibition area, an education center, and an international bazaar or retail area. By November 1982 feasibility studies had been presented, with the joint venture of Anderson, Notter, Feingold/Mariani & Associates/Bryant and Bryant being selected as consultants to develop a preliminary scheme.

Ted Mariani of Mariani & Associates was then introduced. He showed slides of the area to acquaint the members with the site and the buildings nearby. He noted that Maine Avenue, a wide arterial street, was a negative element in the area, separating the waterfront from the overlook site. He said the avenue would be bridged to bring people easily from the trade center to the fish market and restaurants; access across the Washington Channel to the newly opened recreational area (replacing the golf course) would also be provided. He said the restaurant owners had expressed an interest in the proposed trade center, and he hoped there would be cooperation with them in bringing

more vitality to the area, possibly through some activity in the rather bleak restaurant parking areas. Expansion and improvement of the fish market was also suggested.

Mr. Mariani then turned to a model and drawings to discuss his proposal. He said the main entrance to the complex would be at the Tenth Street, or Banneker Overlook, where there would be a plaza and a glass hemisphere structure. The overlook would link the Center with L'Enfant Plaza and the Mall, and it was hoped that the hemisphere and easy pedestrian access would bring a large share of the Mall visitors down to the Center. The bridge over Maine Avenue would occur at this point. West of the plaza would be a performing arts center, and to the east would be the three main buildings of the Center, providing offices as well as trade, conference, and education facilities, a State Department training center, and chancery annexes. These would be located on Parcel 76 and part of the recreation field belonging to Jefferson School. The school would remain, and additional recreation space opened up for it by the demolition of an old warehouse. He said that the massing of the buildings had been considered in the light of causing the least impact on housing, nearby federal buildings, and most important, the waterfront. The buildings were all stepped down toward the water. Mr. Mariani noted that there were several Metro stops nearby and that underground parking for 1900 cars would also be provided. George Notter, of Anderson, Notter, Feingold, was then introduced to discuss further aspects of the design.

After the presentation had been completed, the members commented on the design. Mr. Netsch said his primary concern was the logistics of handling the vast amount of material connected with trade exhibits, as well as the trucks required to bring it in. He recalled similar problems in Chicago and cautioned against cluttering the waterfront with this type of thing. Mr. Mariani said exhibits would be primarily "high tech" in nature rather than heavy agricultural machinery, as an example, and there would be service access off Maine Avenue and a service roadway along the rear of the complex, near the freeway.

Both Mr. Netsch and the Chairman liked the massing and the stepping back from the waterfront,as well as the international character of the activities proposed. Mr. Netsch suggested the glass dome should be provided with some greenery, to strengthen the relationship between it and the Mall. Mr. Chase asked on what basis it was expected that large numbers of people would come from the Mall. Mr. Mariani said they expected the international character, with its foreign exhibits and shops, would be a natural attraction. Also, the glass dome would be visible from the Mall and attract interest, and easy pedestrian access would be provided through L'Enfant Plaza directly to the Center.

Mr. Sparks closed the presentation by saying that the plans would now have to be presented to NCPC, the City Council, and Congress. The Planning Commission would need to amend both the comprehensive and urban renewal plans to permit this development, and he expected they would present the plans to that commission in June. He said both the Commerce and State departments would provide more money for development expenses, and if all went well, groundbreaking could be expected late in 1985.

The Chairman expressed the Commission's general enthusiasm for the project and willingness to work with those involved in it. As the presentation was for information only, no action was taken.

Exhibit B

B. Department of the Navy, Chesapeake Division

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-2, temporary lodging facility designs, Bolling Air Force Base. Confirmation of CFA 8/MAR/83-5 report. Staff member Jeffrey Carson introduced Frank Gerlach from the Navy and explained that this submission was for confirmation only, there not having been a quorum when it was presented in March 1983. Mr. Stone was the only member present at this meeting who had not seen the design. He looked at the drawings, questioned Mr. Gerlach on the status of the landscape plan for the base, and when assured that it was progressing and would be applied to this project, gave his approval. The other members reconfirmed their previous approval.

Exhibit C

2. CFA 10/MAY/83-5, Modifications to Firth Sterling Gate, Bolling/Anacostia tract. Mr. Carson again introduced Mr. Gerlach, who explained to the members that this was an old gate, being reopened to connect with the Defense Boulevard project. There would be a new gate house, for which Mr. Gerlach showed drawings. It was a simple brick structure with a complicated roof design that the members found unacceptable. They asked him to make another submission with a simpler, more distinguished roof line, perhaps a gable or more sharply pitched profile. The design was unanimously disapproved. Exhibit D

C. Smithsonian Institution

CFA 10/MAY/83-3, Lighting mock-up at the Freer Gallery, report. The Secretary reported that he had seen the lights, which would be the halide type seen in April 1983 on the Mall. He told the members they would see the mock-up when they went to the Freer after the meeting to inspect objects proposed for acquisition. (Note: When they went to the Freer, the members were unable to see the lights as they had been removed.)

D. General Services Administration, National Capital Region

CFA 10/MAY/83-4, Old Post Office renovation details, final design for the "Pavilion". The Assistant Secretary said this submission was for exterior "embellishments" and accent lighting, both interior and exterior. He introduced Andrea Mones from the Historic Preservation Office of GSA to discuss the details. Ms. Mones first showed a drawing of the front entrance with bronze lettering over the doorway spelling out "Old Post Office". She said the building name had originally been in the same place. There would be two "events" banners, fabric on bronze poles, on the front of the building and also five flags over the entrance. All these attachments would be fastened into the building at the granite joints, not in the granite itself. To draw the eye into the courtyard, there would be banners strung on cables between the Post Office and the IRS building, at the fifth floor level. The flags and entrance, but not banners, would be lighted at night.

Inside, there would be theatre type lights on the steel truss to pick up details in the cortile. In answer to a question from Mr. Netsch, Ms. Mones said these lights would only be used at night.

Exhibit E

E. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-6, Intersection design, Constitution Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue at John Marshall Park (previous CFA 7/JUL/81-3). (Citing a possible conflict of interest because of his position as director of the National Gallery of Art, the Chairman turned the meeting over to Mr. Stone and left the room during this discussion.) The Assistant Secretary recalled the previous submission of this project in July 1981. He said revisions had been made, following the Commission's recommendations regarding the alignment of 6th Street, curb line alignments, and restudying a service entry for the National Gallery from Constitution Avenue. He said the only issue remaining was whether the tree line should continue in front of the National Gallery. He then introduced James Rich from PADC to discuss the options. Mr. Rich said that both PADC and the National Gallery preferred not to have the trees in front of the Gallery, but to leave it clear so it could be seen better, especially when looking down 6th Street. NCPC, however, did not want to interrupt the tree pattern. He showed drawings of the two schemes. The NCPC scheme showed a triangular plot of grass in the leftover space where Constitution curves to meet Pennsylvania Avenue with no service access through this space into the plaza between the east and west wings of the Gallery. The PADC scheme showed the triangular area paved with blocks of granite set with creeping thyme planted between them. There was a curb cut so that trucks could drive through this space and into the Gallery plaza.

Rather than trees along the Constitution Avenue sidewalk in this area, a row of clipped yews was shown.

Mr. Netsch suggested that a way out of the difficulty might be to continue the trees from Pennsylvania Avenue to the service drive, then use the clipped yews beyond, to the west building entrance drive. Mr. Stone told Mr. Rich the members would like to look at the site when they made their Freer inspection and asked if action could be deferred until afterwards, when a letter would be sent. This was agreeable to Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich then showed drawings for the final Mellon Fountain planting and lighting scheme. The members found these consistent with the Commission's previous recommendations and unanimously approved them. Exhibit F

2. CFA 10/MAY/83-7, Western Plaza flagpole bases, additional design studies, (previous CFA 14/DEC/82-1). Mr. Carson reviewed the Commission's disapproval of two previous designs in December 1982 and February 1983, and again introduced James Rich from PADC to show the members a third design. They found it less bulbous, much improved generally, and unanimously approved it. Exhibit G

F. District of Columbia Government, Department of Transportation

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-8, Barney Circle freeway modification, preliminary alternative studies. The Assistant Secretary located this circle, at the point where Sousa Bridge crosses the Anacostia, and said the proposal was to connect the Southeast Freeway to other routes in the stadium area. He said the impact of any change on adjacent park areas, as well as the actual design of any structures, would be the subject of later submissions. He then introduced Patricia Fairbairn from the D. C. Department of Transportation to discuss several alternate proposals. She said the purpose of this modification was to complete the gaps in the freeway system in this area and get traffic off residential streets. She said the entrance to the stadium would also be upgraded, as would Anacostia Park. The impact on Congressional Cemetery and D. C. General Hospital, the number of acres of parkland lost, and the number of stadium parking places removed would all be considerations in the decision as to which proposal to develop.

The members looked at four proposals: Alternate 1, a four lane freeway from the Southeast Freeway at Barney Circle along the west bank of the Anacostia River to East Capitol Street Bridge; Alternate 2, a four lane freeway bridge parallel and north of the Conrail tracks and bridge, connecting the Southeast Freeway at Barney Circle with the Anacostia Freeway; Alternate 1/2, a combination of the Alternate 2 bridge and the Alternate 1 west river bank freeway; Alternate 3, a new two lane bridge across the Anacostia River connecting the Southeast Freeway

with the north bound Anacostia Freeway and a two lane ramp connecting the south bound Anacostia Freeway with the Pennsylvania Avenue (Sousa) Bridge.

Ms. Fairbairn explained the advantages and disadvantages of each proposal. She said there had been public hearings, and comments from all groups which would be affected by the changes had been heard. She noted that the Committee of One Hundred was against another bridge across the river, but that the Park Service preferred Alternate 1/2 which did provide for a bridge but which, according to the Park Service, would permit the best development of parkland in the area. The members asked questions about the various alternatives; Mr. Netsch said he was concerned about the way views of the river would be affected by all the proposals, and Mr. Stone asked questions about the effect on parkland.

While not enthusiastic about the prospect of another bridge over the Anacostia, the members agreed that the traffic situation needed to be addressed, and unanimously agreed with the Park Service that Alternate 1/2 was the best of the four presented. The Chairman noted that the Commission would look very carefully at the designs for any bridge proposal. Exhibit H

2. CFA 10/MAY/83-9, Union Station, preliminary development concepts, (previous CFA 13/JUL/82-1). The Assistant Secretary introduced Gary Burch from the D. C. Department of Transportation to discuss this project. Mr. Burch said the District Government would be involved only with structures north of the historic station, and the aim was to complete the parking garage and provide adequate railroad station facilities. He recalled the model shown at the July 1982 meeting, and said since then there had been several meetings with federal agencies and the Federal Railway Administration, and as a result, some changes had been made. New drawings and a model showed the railroad station joined to the historic building by a skylit barrel vault, escalators to the lower track area covered by glass enclosures of a similar shape, and an extension of the bus area behind the parking structure to accomodate tour buses. There was also an additional ramp from H Street for bus use. The members thought the changes constituted an improvement, and they were unanimously approved. Exhibit I

G. District of Columbia Government, Department of Transportation, Public Space Committee; and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

CFA 10/MAY/83-10, Location of pay phones in place of existing unused police callboxes throughout the city. Review of concept and prototype design for replacement boxes. The Assistant Secretary explained to the members the telephone company's proposal to use the bases of the old curb-side police call boxes throughout the city for new pay phone

installations. He said the Georgetown Board had seen the full size mock-up, on view also at this meeting, and found it too bulky for curb-side use in Georgetown.

Lewis German from the telephone company was introduced and told the members that the reason for using the old call box bases was that they were already supplied with cables. He said the new top section, holding the telephone, had been designed to resemble the old call boxes. This design would be used only where the old boxes already exist; the two previously approved designs for pay phones would continue to be used elsewhere.

The Chairman thought the new design too "cute" and not functional either, given the need of a caller for acoustic and weather protection and the ability to consult a directory. The other members agreed and also pointed out the advantage of keeping these installations away from the curb, to avoid noise and lessen the appearance of clutter along the street. The new box was unanimously disapproved, and it was suggested that the two previously approved designs continue to be used, at locations away from the curb.

Exhibits J, J-1

H. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 83-77, 2715 M Street, N. W., renovation of old Corcoran School and new construction. Modified concept designs. The Assistant Secretary recalled the previous submission of this project and the request for a restudy of the fenestration of the M Street facade. He noted also that there had been some citizen concern about the size and height of the tower. Architect Arthur Cotton Moore was then introduced; he showed drawings of the M Street facade and said the fenestration had been restudied and was now more disciplined and modular. Mr. Netsch remarked that it had also taken on a more horizontal feeling, which he considered an improvement over the original version. He was, however, concerned that the tower was higher than it needed to be. The Chairman asked Mr. Moore how the tower compared in height with the one at the Four Seasons Hotel across the street. Mr. Moore said the Four Seasons tower was 80 feet high; his was about 55 feet. He compared the shape with the one on the old car barn building on M Street at the western entrance to Georgetown. The members were satisfied that the tower would not depart significantly from others in the area in either height or shape, and they unanimously approved the designs.

b. Appendix 1, approved. The Secretary noted that the action for O.G. 83-76, 3147 P Street, had been changed to approval of the preliminary design, as the aspect requiring restudy had been withdrawn.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 83-54, 655 15th Street, N. W. Metropolitan Square, Phase II; review of working drawings for conformance with preliminary scheme (previous S.L. 78-32, 33, 34; S.L. 79-117, and S.L. 80-8.) (Mr. Netsch left the room because of his previous association with the architects, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.) The Chairman introduced this project by reviewing the history of the submissions made to the Commission and actions taken, particularly in regard to the Rhodes Tavern, since this building, erected in 1799, would be demolished if Phase II of the Metropolitan Square project received approval and went ahead.

He recalled that in March 1978 the Commission was presented with various options for preservation and new construction on the site and asked to comment on its relative preferences. The Commission felt strongly that the Keith-Albee building and the Metropolitan Bank, two turn-of-the-century Beaux-Arts structures, should remain. The members were told at that time that it would not be economically feasible to retain, in addition, the small run-down, remaining half of the original Rhodes Tavern building. Given these options, the Commission concurred with the architect that the retention of the tavern was of a lower priority. This action was taken under the Shipstead-Luce Act, which authorizes the Commission to advise the District Government as to "height and appearance, color and texture of the material of exterior construction" of a building in the area defined by that act.

He noted that, unlike the Old Georgetown Act, the Shipstead-Luce Act did not address the issue of historic preservation. However, the Commission had not wanted to close the door on any plan which would make it possible to save the tavern, and in its letter to the city government, following this first submission, had said: "We therefore believe it is appropriate to hold public hearings for the purpose of providing the fullest opportunity to all parties to present alternative plans for the Tavern."

When the project was again presented to the Commission, on 26 September 1978, the priorities were again stated, with the Chairman adding, in respect to Rhodes Tavern, "...we would not like to do anything here in the Commission that would block its preservation if that would be economically possible." Referring to the Beaux-Arts facades on the one hand and the tavern on the other, he said: "We think they both probably should be saved if it is economically viable."

After reviewing the history the Chairman noted that the submissions referred to had been at the conceptual level, and since that time, working drawings for Phase I, the northern part of the site, had been approved, and the project, including retention of the facade and first five bays of the Albee Building along G Street, had been built. He said he considered the retention of this portion of the Albee Building a major victory for preservation in the capital city.

Turning to the submission before the Commission at this meeting, the Chairman said it included plans for the retention of the Metropolitan Bank facade and specific architectural proposals for construction on the southern corner of the site, the area now occupied by the Rhodes Tavern and other buildings.

Before proceeding with the presentation and discussion, the Chairman noted the Commission's published guidelines, which state that discussion must be confined to the matters or issues before the Commission, and that the Chairman shall make the decision as to the order of appearance and compliance with these regulations by any person desiring to speak, unless the Commission determines otherwise. To clarify the matter before discussion began, he polled the members as to whether this discussion should be limited to the submission as listed on the agenda, which would then have to exclude discussion of the demolition of Rhodes Tavern. The vote was unanimous that the discussion should be so limited.

Architects David Childs from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, and Vlastimil Koubek, the associated architect, were then introduced. Mr. Childs showed drawings of the office building to be erected on the Rhodes Tavern site and described the materials. The base course would be granite, similar to that used on the Metropolitan Bank, with marble above, to the second floor. Above this level, the building would be constructed of Alabama limestone with a copper roof. Decorative elements between and around the windows on the second and two top floors would be regal rose granite. Windows would be clear glass, double hung, and framed in a light tan metal. At the height of the Metropolitan Bank building, there would be a setback, and the taller parts of the new construction would revert to the precast and tinted glass material used for new construction in Phase I.

The Chairman asked Mr. Childs how this version differed from the conceptual design seen earlier. Mr. Childs showed the old and new drawings, pointing out that there were now five rather than four bays, the rhythm being three double window bays in the middle, flanked by a narrow single window bay at each end. The architect and the Commission members all considered this a much stronger design.

The Chairman then opened the discussion to members of the community, reminding them that testimony was to be limited to comments on the drawings as presented. A few people who had signed up to testify withdrew because they had planned to protest the demolition of Rhodes Tavern; nine others commented on the new building.

Margaret Hare, representing the Junior League, reminded the members that Oliver Carr had once offered to give the tavern to them to restore. She said they had drawn up plans for restoration but he had not followed through with his offer.

Nelson Rimensnyder, a staff member of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, commented, first of all, that the public is really not aware of when the Commission's meetings are held or what will be discussed, although the dates of the meetings are printed in the Federal Register. He thought this was the case in March 1978 when the Rhodes Tavern issue first came up. He said he thought the action of the Commission in regard to the tavern would go down as a tragic mistake. He, too, recalled that Mr. Carr had offered to give the tavern to the Junior League, and he stated that during a hearing on House Res. 532, urging the retention of the Tavern, Mr. Carr had said the Commission of Fine Arts preferred a scheme that would demolish Rhodes Tavern. The Chairman noted at this point that this had never been the Commission's position. Mr. Rimensnyder said that the view that the Commission supported demolition was, however, widespread, and he hoped the Commission's position could be clarified. Also, he hoped that the Commission would have the chance to review a submission that included the retention of the tavern. Mr. Rimensnyder read and submitted a letter from Hon. William H. Gray, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Operation and Metropolitan Affairs which urged the retention of the tavern and mentioned Mr. Carr's statement in regard to the Commission's position on its demolition.

The next speaker, Harriet Hubbard, commented on the height of the new building, saying it was higher than other buildings in the area, and too high in relation to the Treasury. She noted also that the original presentation did have a scheme showing Rhodes Tavern retained, that it was the architect's preferred scheme, and should be considered again. She felt the historic tavern, especially if developed as a restaurant, would actually be preferable from an economic point of view to another office building.

At this point the Chairman asked the architect, David Childs, about the height question. Mr. Childs replied that the cornice line conformed to the 1910 height act, and the penthouse was 18½ feet high, the maximum permitted by zoning. He added that Ms. Hare was incorrect in saying that the scheme preserving Rhodes Tavern was the one preferred by the architects.

Duffy Spencer, the next speaker, commented briefly on the importance of the Tavern building as a gateway to F Street.

Ruth Worthy commented on the design of the new buildings, saying she did not find them particularly distinguished nor worth the sacrifice of the old buildings on the site. She also thought that while the Commission might not have the legal authority to prevent the demolition of Rhodes Tavern, it had real power because of its prestige. She was concerned, too, about the new buildings presenting a security risk to the White House because of their height.

Kay Eccles, from the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, also spoke about the roof line of the new buildings and their excessive height in relation to the White House.

Ann Loikow, an ANC representative, said she believed there was an urban design solution to the block that was better than saving facades and/or demolition, and she thought the Commission did have the power to see that it was implemented.

Joseph Grano, the leader in the movement to save Rhodes Tavern, talked about the height question. He said that Rhodes Tavern, with its human scale, showed the historic relation of other buildings in the city to the Treasury, when that building truly was a monumental structure. Mr. Grano said that now the new buildings are the monumental ones and the Treasury and White House are overwhelmed. He thought the Commission of Fine Arts did have the power to consider how the height of the new building will affect the Treasury. Mr. Grano asked why there had been no concern about the height of these buildings when the federal government had gone so far as to get involved in a lawsuit over the highrises erected in Arlington, in view of the major monuments. Mr. Grano closed by noting that, after collecting 25,000 signatures on a petition, the issue of Rhodes Tavern will be placed on the ballot in November. However, he pointed out that if the Commission approved the plans for a new building at this meeting, then Mr. Carr could demolish the tavern almost immediately and the people of the District would never have the chance to express themselves on the ballot.

Mr. Rimensnyder then asked if he could read a letter from James Goode of the Smithsonian Institution, urging the preservation of the tavern on the grounds that it is the only structure left on 15th Street that indicates the original historic monumental scale of the Treasury building. The Chairman said he had planned to read the letter himself, but did not think it necessary at this point because Mr. Grano's remarks had covered the same point, and the letter would be made part of the record of the meeting. Exhibit K

The Chairman then commented on some of the points made. He said the height issue had already been addressed by the architect, as far as city laws were concerned. He considered the Rosslyn case quite a different matter, as those buildings were much higher. As to the matter of a security threat to the White House, he said that was not in the Commission's jurisdiction and would have to be dealt with by someone else. He said that in the Commission's letter to the Mayor, whatever action was taken, it would be noted that the Commission was acting within the limitations of the Shipstead-Luce Act, but was aware of the fact that the proposed demolition of Rhodes Tavern had become a public issue and was to be on the ballot in November. Mr. Stone said the Commission was on record as wanting to preserve historic structures and would certainly welcome other design solutions showing the tavern retained on its site. Mr. Chase suggested that the Commission take no action until after the election, but the Chairman reminded him that under the Shipstead-Luce Act, the developer would be free to go ahead with his proposal if the Commission did not act within thirty days. Mrs. Myers asked if the Commission could not request that the Mayor take no action until after the election.

The Chairman than asked if the members would vote for approval of the design for the new building within the context of a strong recommendation to the Mayor that he withhold any permits until after the election. Mr. Stone and Mrs. Myers voted yes and Mr. Chase voted no. The final working drawings for Phase II of Metropolitan Square were therefore approved. Exhibit K-1

b. Appendix 2, approved.

I. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

1. CFA 10/MAY/83-11, Joe Louis Medal, designs. Staff member Sue Kohler introduced Geroge Schafer from the Mint to show designs for this medal, the last in the series that included medals to Fred Waring and Louis L'Amour. On the obverse was a portrait of Mr. Louis, with gloved hands in a boxing position. The members were pleased with the portrait, with Mr. Chase suggesting only that special care be taken when modeling the area of the right arm where the glove ends. It was also suggested that the diamond shape, placed between the name and date, be replaced by a simpler form, perhaps just a line or bar.

The design for the reverse was the result of a competition held in Detroit, Louis's home town, for high school students and senior citizens. It has been won by a high school student and showed the "tools of the trade" of boxing: Louis's gloves, shoes and championship belt. The members thought the design too complicated and composed of too many elements, which would make it illegible when reduced to medal

size. This side of the medal was unanimously disapproved, and it was recommended that one of the Mint artists modify the design along the lines suggested and make another submission. Exhibit L

1984 Olympic Coins, revised designs. (This item was not on the agenda.)

Mrs. Kohler introduced Francis Frere from the Mint to show plaster models for these revised coin designs. The obverse of the ten dollar gold coin had been modified, with the runners in a slightly different position and a clear separation between them and the date below. The design was considered greatly improved, but Mr. Chase recalled that he had recommended using more abstract facial features so that no one race would be suggested, and this had not been done. Disappointment was expressed that Mr. Chase's recommendation had not been followed on the design for the obverse, and it was requested that his comments be taken into consideration. The reverse of the medal, only slightly modified, showed an eagle, very much like that on the Great Seal; it was unanimously approved.

The obverse of the 1984 one dollar silver coin was shown next. Like the previous design submitted, it showed the 1984 Olympic gateway with the Los Angeles coliseum in the background. While some changes had been made, the members did not consider it an improvement because the roof line of the coliseum coincided exactly with the horizontal member of the gate, still giving the impression that the building was an appendage to the gateway. It was unanimously disapproved, with the suggestion that the building be moved down so that it would appear entirely separated from the gate. (The reverse of this medal, an eagle, had been approved previously.) Exhibit L

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. and the members, with the staff as their guests, left to celebrate the seventy-third anniversary of the Commission at a luncheon.

III. SITE VISIT

Because of the hour of adjournment, the members were not able to attend the dedication of John Marshall Park. After their inspection at the Freer Gallery, they were able to visit the Constitution/Pennsylvania Avenue intersection and decided to approve unanimously Mr. Netsch's suggestion that the Pennsylvania Avenue trees be carried around the corner onto Constitution Avenue and then stop at the National Gallery's service entrance.

IV. INSPECTION

Freer Gallery of Art. The members inspected objects proposed for acquisition and unanimously approved them.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT A

May 5, 1983

Dear Mr. Urquhart:

I am writing in regard to the Joint Committee on Landmarks which as you know was established in 1964 by our two agencies to advise on local preservation matters. I believe that most of us who have followed the work of the Committee will agree that it has provided over the years a valuable service to the community and has been a worthwhile endeavor. However, now that the Mayor is about to establish an autonomous District of Columbia Historic Review Board as the official means of meeting the requirements of both federal and D.C. preservation laws, it is our belief that our Joint Committee can no longer serve a useful purpose and should be dissolved.

In fact, its continuation after the new D.C. agency begins operation would actually be detrimental to local preservation interests. First, there would be further duplication of review, a fact that is already very troubling to this Commission, to the design community, and to the many individuals, both public and private, who often have to endure conflicting actions of various agencies in the review of projects, not to mention the Office of Management and Budget and our Congressional committees, who continue to be troubled by this issue.

Secondly, there simply are not enough highly qualified individuals who are willing to serve to provide for two separate bodies. Washington is fortunate to have more such individuals than many communities, but the strengthening of one agency would have to be done at the expense of the other and the public interest would suffer as a result.

The intent of the Preservation Act and the entire 106 process is aimed at protecting local landmarks from federal projects that might adversely affect them, so it would be inconsistent to have a federal agency performing this function. I believe that your own highly competent and knowledgeable staff is better equipped to help the Planning Commission meet its obligations under the federal 106 process.

I am convinced that both the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts would best serve local preservation interest by assisting the Mayor in every way we can in establishing the new D.C. Historic Review Board. As you know, the D.C. preservation program has been suspended by the National Park Service, and it is essential that this situation be corrected as soon as possible. It is

therefore important that we take whatever steps are necessary to assist in the transition efforts that will make the new Board a success.

I hope very much that you will share these views, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Glen T. Urquhart, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
1325 G Street, N.W., 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20576

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT B

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Ken,

The Commission thanks you and your consultants for joining us on May 10, 1983 to give an informational presentation on the U.S. International Cultural and Trade Center proposal being coordinated by the Federal City Council. I am sure that gauging by our comments you would agree that the Commission's reaction to the overall design concept was decidedly positive; the largely empty area around the waterfront near the Banneker Overlook would benefit from a greater number of people and buildings and the activities they bring. An international cultural and trade center, of course, has the added bonus of diversity that the Southwest so greatly needs. The schematic architectural solution appears to accommodate the program very well while at the same time respecting and making the most out of this strategic site. The transparent bubble at the Overlook site is a particularly apt illustration of this point.

We realize that a great deal more time and effort will be required to bring this large-scale undertaking to fruition. In the meantime we wish you success and offer our assistance as specific design questions arise. The Commission staff and I shall continue to follow your progress and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Kenneth R. Sparks
Executive Vice President
Federal City Council
1155 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT C

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Lose,

This confirms the Commission's approval of preliminary designs for the Temporary Lodging Facility at Bolling Air Force Base. The other members join me in hoping that proper landscaping will be a part of this project and that it will be integrated with the base-wide landscape plan which we understand is being programmed.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert C. Lose
Director, Planning Division
Department of the Navy
Chesapeake Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Building 212, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

EXHIBIT D

May 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Lose,

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for modifications to the Sterling Gate at the Bolling Anacostia Tract during its May 10, 1983 meeting. Unfortunately the Commission did not feel that they could approve the design as submitted and have asked for restudy of the roof shape. The double slope does not contribute to the building and seems an unnecessary complication and the angle of pitch is too soft. Our recommendation would be a simple hip-roof shape, or gable design. As these studies progress we will be happy to work with you.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert C. Lose
Director, Planning Division
Department of the Navy
Chesapeake Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Building 212, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT E

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Ms. Mones,

The Commission of Fine Arts was happy to meet with you and Messers Evans and Thompson at our May 10, 1983 meeting and to review proposed additions of banners, lighting, awnings, signs, and flags at entrances and other strategic locations of the Old Post Office including the cortile. We approve those elements as presented, but caution against too much and too harsh lighting of the interior. Since you have access to advice in the matter from the developer's consultants and since some trial installations will probably be useful, we will be happy to take another look at whatever evolves as a final proposal in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Andrea Mones
Project Director
General Services Administration
National Capital Region
Washington, D.C. 20407

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT F

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN B. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Rich,

The Commission of Fine Arts visited the intersection of Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues in conjunction with our meeting on May 10, 1983. Our inspection confirmed our recommendation to you that running a tree line from Fourth Street to the service drive of the National Gallery and leaving the remaining Gallery frontage free of street trees would be the best plan. The tree massing within the Gallery grounds and the building itself will thus be enhanced while strengthening the actual intersection planting.

Our approval is contingent on seeing the actual design drawings, which we will be happy to circulate to our members by mail for comment, knowing the urgency of your schedule. I am writing on behalf of the Commission, since the Chairman has recused himself from this matter because of his position as Director of the National Gallery of Art.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Mr. James Rich
Pennsylvania Avenue
Development Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT G

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Tom,

I am pleased to confirm the Commission's approval of the most recent revisions to the Western Plaza Flagpole bases which we reviewed at our meeting on May 10, 1983. We appreciate the effort made by the staff in improving the design.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Tom Regan
Pennsylvania Avenue
Development Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT H

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Ms. Fairbairn,

Many thanks for joining the Commission on May 10, 1983 to brief us on the alternative studies for the Barney Circle Freeway modifications proposed by the District of Columbia Government Department of Transportation. Of those alternates shown we favored scheme "1/2" because it appeared to be efficient and to cause minimal damage to the Anacostia shores and adjacent park lands. We also agree with the District Government that it would be a mistake to build an elevated freeway on the eastern shore of the river between Sousa Bridge and the stadium.

Our interest in the matter is really the eventual appearance of the roadway, abutments and new bridge. We also expect to be working with the National Park Service to achieve the best possible park amenities which can be developed in conjunction with the project. We will be happy to be of any assistance as the project progresses and look forward to reviewing the design details as they are developed.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Patricia Fairbairn
Project Manager
Department of Transportation
Office of Policy and Program Development
415 12th Street, N.W. - Room 519
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT I

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Jones,

The Commission of Fine Arts appreciated a chance to see the design developments for the connection between Union Station and the parking structure to the north. We feel that there has been a definite improvement in the design since our July 1982 review. Our concept approval, however, comes with the strong recommendation that there continue to be coordination between the District of Columbia Government, the Federal Railroad Administration and the National Park Service.

We look forward to reviewing the final design details and material samples as they are ready and wish you well on speeding the project along. In that regard we would suggest care in selecting the light fixtures to be exposed on the top of the parking structure and the tour bus parking area. Our preference is for the use of down lights to avoid visibility from the main Union Station building, and from the adjacent community, because of its proximity to the Capitol.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Horace G. Jones
Assistant Director
Bureau of Design, Engineering
and Research
613 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT J

May 31, 1983

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

At the request of the Public Space Committee, the Commission of Fine Arts met with a representative of the C & P Telephone Company on May 10, 1983 to discuss the possibility of replacing unused police and fire call boxes near curbs throughout the city with a commercially produced "traditional style" payphone booth. The Commission of Fine Arts recommended against the concept for the reasons noted in a letter to the telephone company, a copy of which I am enclosing for your information.

We appreciate the public space committee's interest in requesting that the applicant submit the design to the Commission for review.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Enclosure

Mr. Bernard J. O'Donnell
D.C. Department of Transportation
415 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT J-1

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA O. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Mr. German,

The Commission appreciates your meeting with them on the 10th of May, 1983 to discuss placing pay phones at police callbox locations throughout the city. We also appreciate the effort you took to make a mock-up of the proposed replacement booth design. Unfortunately, we are advising the Public Space Committee against the proposal for the following reasons:

The Commission has had a longstanding interest in keeping the city's sidewalks and other public rights-of-way free from the clutter and obstructions that are typical of so many other cities. Unfortunately the police call boxes you wish to replace with phone installations were by necessity located in highly visible spots, and more often than not are right next to the curb line. The Commission, on the other hand, has consistently discouraged such locations for public phone booths, preferring instead a location set back from the curb to the other side of the sidewalk, preferably next to the property line or better yet, behind it. It therefore appears to us that a program utilizing the existing police call box sites for new phone installations is not to be recommended.

We appreciate the interest of the telephone company in making additional service available to the public on Washington streets. However, we recommend no departure from the preferred locations as previously stated; and would also like to add that the standard types of contemporary design for phone installations, which represent a modern service, are preferable to any attempt to evoke some historic recall of the designs common to the old-fashioned fire and police call boxes, which would also provide inadequate shelter, directory access and acoustical isolation for the user.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Lewis German
Public Communications Representative
C&P Telephone
6400 Chillum Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20012

ROOM SI B-2
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

EXHIBIT K

7 February 1983

J. Carter Brown, Chairman
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is my understanding that Mr. Oliver Carr will present plans for Phase 2 of his Metropolitan Square project on 15th Street, N.W. before the Commission of Fine Arts tomorrow.

In my opinion, as well as many other historians of the Nation's Capital, Rhodes Tavern must be preserved on its site because of its relationship to the Treasury Department Building. It has been argued in the past that Rhodes Tavern should be removed because it does not fit the scale of the massive post 1900 Beaux-Arts buildings (theatre and bank) in that block. The preservation of Rhodes Tavern is most important for the very fact that it is the only structure left on 15th Street which indicates the original historic monumental scale of the Treasury Department Building.

There is no question that during the 1850s and for four decades afterwards the white neoclassical profiles of four federal government buildings dominated the Washington, D.C. skyline: Capitol, White House, Patent Building, and Treasury Department Building. All of the early Federal houses and commercial buildings immediately adjacent to these four landmarks have long since been razed - except for Rhodes Tavern.

I hope that your body agrees with me on this important historic relationship between the Treasury Department and Rhodes Tavern since the Commission of Fine Arts is entrusted with the preservation of the ambience surrounding Federal architecture in the Nation's Capital.

Sincerely yours,

James M. Goode

James M. Goode
Keeper of the
Smithsonian Building

cc: Richard H. Howland, Special Assistant to the Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT K-1

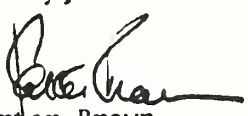
May 16, 1983

Dear Mayor Barry,

At its meeting on May 10, 1983, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the working drawings for Phase II of the Metropolitan Square project at 655 15th Street, N.W. (SL 83-54). After listening to extensive public testimony, the Commission examined the drawings, found them to be in conformance with the preliminary plans, and approved them. We note that this phase provides for the retention of the front portion of the Metropolitan Bank building, and for the erection of an office building at the corner of 15th and F Streets, the site of the Rhodes Tavern building.

In taking this action, the Commission is aware that its approval of Phase II will result in a request for the issuance of a demolition permit for the buildings on the site. At the same time, we note the upcoming public referendum on the issue of Rhodes Tavern, and we strongly urge that the District of Columbia government delay the issuance of such a permit until the citizens of the District have an opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Honorable Marion S. Barry
Mayor of the District of Columbia
District Building, Suite 520
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT L

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 25, 1983

Dear Ms. Pope,

At its meeting on 10 May 1983 the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for a medal to Joe Louis and clay maquettes for the 1984 Olympic coins.

The members were pleased with the design of the obverse of the Joe Louis medal, cautioning only that care be taken when sculpting the right arm and glove so that the relationship appears correct. It was also suggested that the diamond shape separating the name and date be replaced by something simpler. The design on the reverse was considered too complicated and composed of too many elements to make it understandable when reduced to medal size; it was suggested that it be redesigned with these considerations in mind.

Comments on the maquettes for the Olympic coins were as follows:

Ten dollar gold coin: obverse design considered greatly improved, but facial features still too specific; reference to race should be avoided to extent possible. Reverse: approved.

One dollar silver coin: relationship of gateway to coliseum behind it, on the obverse, remains confusing. Suggest moving coliseum down so that roof line does not coincide with horizontal line of gateway.

The Commission will be happy to review revised designs for the medal and coins when they are ready.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Donna Pope
Director of the Mint
501 13th Street, N.W.
Room 1010
Washington, D.C. 20220

Jun 23, 2017